

**876—9.12(17A,22,85-87) Availability of records.**

**9.12(1)** General. Agency records are open for public inspection and copying unless otherwise provided by rule or law.

**9.12(2)** The record of declaratory rulings, declaratory orders, contested case proceedings, decisions, orders, rulings, settlements, and opinions are open for public inspection and copying.

**9.12(3)** Records obtained from the division of vocational rehabilitation are open records.

**9.12(4)** Confidential records. The following records may be withheld from public inspection. Records are listed by category, according to the legal basis for withholding them from public inspection.

*a.* Sealed bids received prior to the time set for public opening of bids pursuant to Iowa Code section 72.3.

*b.* Tax records made available to the agency pursuant to Iowa Code sections 422.20, 422.72.

*c.* Records which are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7.

*d.* Minutes and tape recordings of closed meetings of a government body pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(4).

*e.* Those portions of agency staff manuals, instructions, or other statements issued which set forth criteria or guidelines to be used by agency staff in auditing, in making inspections, in settling commercial disputes or negotiating commercial arrangements, or in the selection or handling of cases, such as operational tactics or allowable tolerances or criteria for the defense, prosecution or settlement of cases, when disclosure of these statements would:

(1) Enable law violators to avoid detection;

(2) Facilitate disregard of requirements imposed by law; or

(3) Give a clearly improper advantage to persons who are in an adverse position to the agency.

*f.* Records which constitute the work product of the workers' compensation commissioner, deputy commissioner, an agency attorney, or employee of the agency, attorney-client communications, or which are otherwise privileged. Attorney work product is confidential under Iowa Code sections 22.7(4), 622.10, and 622.11, Iowa R. Civ. P. 122(c), Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3), and case law. Attorney-client communications are confidential under Iowa Code sections 622.10 and 622.11, the rules of evidence, the Code of Professional Responsibility, and case law.

*g.* Personnel records maintained by the agency of past and present employees which may contain confidential information under Iowa Code section 22.7(11).

*h.* Any other records made confidential by law.

**9.12(5)** Authority to release confidential records. The agency may have discretion to disclose some confidential records which are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7 or other law. Any person may request permission to inspect records withheld from inspection under a statute which authorizes limited or discretionary disclosure as provided in rule 9.4(17A,22,85-87). If the agency initially determines that it will release such records, the agency may, where appropriate, notify interested parties and withhold the records from inspection as provided in subrule 9.4(3).